

**I wish to bring the following brief comments to the committee's attention:**

**As a general comment "means testing" is a very blunt instrument. It is not infrequently grossly unfair, whether applied to pensions or to devices for capturing solar energy. I think you will also agree that any form of means testing is expensive and wastes a great deal of the public money that it aims to extract from individuals. In the case of solar hot water systems the need to conserve fossil fuels is so great that the means test is quite unfair to future generations. A grant system to improve the capture of solar (and wind) energy would be far more appropriate at present.**

**Now I must mention briefly my own struggle, against huge odds, to develop a new and potentially far more significant use of solar energy: the generation of unlimited quantities of pure water. It is surprising and disturbing that such a project as this receives no significant public finance. Possibly this is because some of the committee are not familiar with it. If so then I must take some of the blame. There is no doubt that I am a very poor publicist.**

**To save space I attach a scientific paper written some time ago. It gives an overview of the two systems I am working on through the company Water UN Limited (Level 2, 7 Havelock St Perth WA 6005). My old web site might help too <[www.maxwaterdesal.com](http://www.maxwaterdesal.com)> and <[www.maxwater.com](http://www.maxwater.com)>**

**The first is the proposal to distil sea-water as it travels inland to areas of need using solar power and wind power. I call this scheme the Water Road. It is quite capable of restoring the Murray River at a cost comparable to the current patch-up partial and temporary proposals.**

**The second is the system we are currently slowly developing with very limited resources: the Water From Air harvester. This is capable of supplying all the water needed in Australia and other countries but to do so would require a vast number of devices (but no fossil fuels). My main aim is to provide water in areas which have no reliable access at present, and of course it can provide water in the desert and any other area, drought or no drought. This system is relevant here partly because we find that we must supplement the new concept wind turbines with solar powered refrigeration. This form of refrigeration has been known at a research level for several decades but has never been adapted to a practical water collecting system. It is of course vastly simpler than photovoltaic electricity producing systems and does not need any exotic materials.**

**Yours sincerely**

**Dr Max Whisson**